

REMARKS

Claims 25-36 and 40-44 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 25, 31 and 36 are amended and claim 39 is cancelled. Support for the insulating thermosetting resin of claims 25 and 31 can be found in paragraph [0079] of the filed specification, for example.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration; (c) do not present any additional claims; and (d) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

Applicant appreciates the courtesies shown to Applicant's representative by Examiner Tugbang in the March 20, 2008 personal interview. Applicant's separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

Applicant also appreciates the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 26 and 32.

Claims 25, 26, 28-32, 35, 36 and 40-44 continue to read on the elected species and claims 25 and 31 are generic to non-elected claims 27, 33 and 34. Rejoinder of claims 27, 33 and 34 is requested when claims 26 and 31 are found allowable.

Claims 25, 31 and 36 were objected to, and have been amended responsive to the objection. It is respectfully requested that the objection be withdrawn.

Claims 25, 28-32, 35, 36 and 39-44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. By this Amendment, the term "only" has been removed from claims 25 and 31 responsive to the rejection. It is respectfully requested the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 25, 28-31, 35, 36 and 39-44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Hiwada, U.S. Patent No. 6,270,193, in view of Kishi, U.S. Patent No. 6,095,641, and Tago et al. (Tago), U.S. Patent No. 5,508,561. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

As agreed during the personal interview, none of the applied references disclose or suggest using an insulating thermosetting resin between the terminal and the land as called for by claims 25 and 31. Hiwada discloses a conductive adhesive 65 and Tago's bumps 6b are made of a conductive resin material or solder (col. 9, lines 39-44).

As further discussed during the personal interview, the applied references fail to disclose or suggest forming an actuator unit including a piezoelectric element disposed on an ink passage unit (which includes a plurality of wall portions defining each of a plurality of pressure chambers), as called for by claims 25 and 31.

As discussed during the personal interview, the Office Action refers to the separating walls 22A of Kishi's base plate 22 for both the wall portions and the piezoelectric element of claims 25 and 31. The walls of Kishi's chamber 24 noted in the Office Action are the same walls 22A. During the personal interview, the Examiner referred to Hiwada's piezoelectric elements 21c as both the wall portions and piezoelectric element of claims 25 and 31.

As argued during the personal interview, Applicant asserts that this is not a reasonable interpretation of claims 25 and 31 because Kishi's separating walls 22A and Hiwada's piezoelectric element 21c are illustrated as one integral body. Applicant also asserts that it is not a reasonable interpretation because one skilled in the art would not reasonably consider Hiwada's piezoelectric element 21c, for example, as both the piezoelectric element of claims 25 and 31 and a wall portion of an ink passage unit from which a piezoelectric element is disposed.

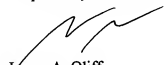
As further discussed during the personal interview, Hiwada's electrode 21e is film-shaped (col. 8, line 52), and thus does not appear to have both a main electrode portion opposed to a pressure chamber and a connecting portion opposed to a wall portion as called for by claims 25 and 31.

It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:

Petition for Extension of Time

Date: March 27, 2008

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